to his brother on 11.05.2004 that is on the very day of receipt of the article.

(ii) One Shri Vikash Kumar Nirala preferred a complaint on 28.05.2004 that Chennai Speed Post Letter No. 419507360 dated 06.05.2004 was delivered to him on 17.05.2004. On enquiry it was found that the speed post article under reference was delivered to his brother on 12 05.2004 *i.e.* on the very day of receipt of the article.

Prompt delivery of postcards and envelopes

2430. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that ordinary postcards and envelopes are not delivered in a reasonable time to the concerned persons in the Districts of U P. especially in Allahabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take for prompt delivery of the postcards and envelopes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no complaint of non-delivery or delayed delivery in ordinary postcards and envelopes from any district of U.P especially in Allahabad.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, monitoring of delivery function through supervisors, Live Mail Surveys, Test Letters etc. is a continuous activity

Telephone facilities in villages

†2431. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) the number of villages in the country where telephone facility has been provided during the last three years and till date;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.